



Atty. Dkt. No. 355901-1860

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Manuel GAUDON, et al.

Title: METHOD FOR PREPARING
METAL OXIDE LAYERS

Appl. No.: 10/561,581

Filing Date: December 19, 2005

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

<p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below.</p> <p><u>Lisa Kaiser</u> (Printed Name)</p> <p><u>Lisa Kaiser</u> (Signature)</p> <p><u>8/29/06</u> (Date of Deposit)</p>

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT TRANSMITTAL

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith are the following documents for the above-identified application:

- [X] Information Disclosure Statement (3 pgs.);
- [X] PTO/SB/08 (1 pg.);
- [X] Four References;
- [X] Copy of an International Search Report (3 pages); and
- [X] Return Postcard.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 29, 2006

By Traci H. Ropp

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Traci H. Ropp
Attorney for Applicant
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Any document listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding PCT Application No. PCT/FR2004/050278 filed on June 17, 2004, which claims the benefit of French Patent Application No. 03/50233 filed on June 19, 2003. A copy of the International Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English-language counterpart of the foreign-language document WO 02/086194 has not been provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609). Additionally, US Patent 6,953,603, also cited in the attached PTO/SB/08, corresponds to WO 02/086194.

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

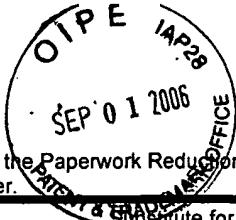
Respectfully submitted,

Date August 29, 2006

By Traci H. Ropp

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Traci H. Ropp
Attorney for Applicant
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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: August 25, 2006 (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/561,581
				Filing Date	December 19, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Manuel GAUDON
				Group Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet 1 of 1				Attorney Docket Number	355901-1860

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	6,953,603		Nonninger and Binkle	10-11-2005	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	B1	WO	02/086194		ITN-NANOVATION GMBH (English Abstract)	10-31-2002		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	C1	JINGEHUAN, ZHU, et al., "Fabrication of Zirconia-Nickel Functionally Graded Material by Dip-Coating"; <i>Functionally Graded Materials</i> 2000; (2000), pp. 483-489; Ceramic Transactions Vol. 114.	
	C2	MIKKOLA, P., et al.; "Colloidal Processing of Aluminum Oxide Powder for Membrane Applications"; <i>Ceramics International</i> 29; (2003), pp. 393-401; Elsevier Science Ltd and Techna S.r.l.	
	C3	TSENG, T.Y., et al.; Rheological Properties of the Aqueous Zirconia/Colloidal Zirconia Binder Sol System"; <i>Journal of Materials Science</i> 24; (1989), pp. 2735-2738; Chapman and Hall Ltd.	
	C4	YANG, X, et al.; "Thin Films by Consolidation and Sintering of Nanocrystalline Powders"; <i>Journal of the European Ceramic Society</i> 17; (1997), pp. 525-535; Elsevier Science Ltd.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.